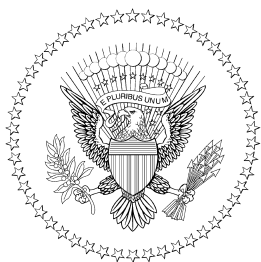


Weekly Compilation of
**Presidential
Documents**



Monday, April 21, 2003
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WEEKLY COMPILATION OF

PRESIDENTIAL DOCUMENTS

Published every Monday by the Office of the Federal Register, National Archives and Records Administration, Washington, DC 20408, the *Weekly Compilation of Presidential Documents* contains statements, messages, and other Presidential materials released by the White House during the preceding week.

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Editor's Note: The President was at the Bush Ranch in Crawford, TX, on April 18, the closing date of this issue. Releases and announcements issued by the Office of the Press Secretary but not received in time for inclusion in this issue will be printed next week.

Week Ending Friday, April 18, 2003

Statement on Senate Action on the Budget Resolution

April 11, 2003

The Senate has now completed action on the budget resolution that funds our priorities and rigorously controls spending. I look forward to working with the full Congress to provide the tax relief necessary to grow our economy and create jobs. The budget resolution provides for a jobs-and-growth package of up to \$550 billion, and we will work with the Congress to provide the greatest amount of tax relief to stimulate our economy for American workers.

NOTE: This item was not received in time for publication in the appropriate issue.

Proclamation 7663—Pan American Day and Pan American Week, 2003

April 11, 2003

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

Our Nation takes great pride in the unity of the Pan American community. We enjoy strong bonds of friendship with our neighbors throughout the Western Hemisphere, and the almost 33 million citizens of Latin American and Caribbean descent who are a part of the rich cultural diversity of our country. Their contributions have enriched our Nation. In the Western Hemisphere, we share common commitments to overcoming poverty, achieving peace and prosperity for all, and providing safety in our hemisphere. As we observe Pan American Day and Pan American Week, we renew our dedication to working with the Pan American community of nations to protect democracy, promote economic growth, and provide for the defense and security of all our citizens.

The governments of the region continue to make important progress in advancing democracy, as demonstrated by the free, fair, and transparent elections that took place throughout the region this past year. The United States joins with our neighbors in the hemisphere in congratulating the citizens and governments of those nations on their achievements, and my Administration remains dedicated to working with the democratically elected governments of the Americas to defend freedoms whenever and wherever they are threatened. The historic Inter-American Democratic Charter, adopted on September 11, 2001, continues to guide efforts across the region to protect human rights and political freedoms, combat corruption, promote good governance, and strengthen democratic institutions.

The countries of our hemisphere have made great strides in opening their economies in recent decades, and we must continue to work towards open exchanges of ideas and goods throughout Pan America. To promote these goals, we must welcome the expansion of economic integration and renew our dedication to creating a Free Trade Area of the Americas.

Ensuring hemispheric security remains one of our most important common objectives. Today and in the future, we will continue our efforts to safeguard our citizens and to ensure that individuals throughout our hemisphere enjoy the full benefits of freedom. By working together, we can achieve the Pan American goals of protecting democracy and human rights, defeating tyranny, and overcoming poverty and lawlessness.

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim April 14, 2003, as Pan American Day, and April 13 through April 19, 2003, as Pan American Week. I encourage the Governors of the 50 States, the

Governor of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, and the officials of other areas under the flag of the United States of America to honor these observances with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this eleventh day of April, in the year of our Lord two thousand three, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-seventh.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 9:18 a.m., April 15, 2003]

NOTE: This proclamation was published in the *Federal Register* on April 16. This item was not received in time for publication in the appropriate issue.

The President's Radio Address

April 12, 2003

Good morning. Over the last several days, the world has watched as the regime of Saddam Hussein began passing into history. We will always remember the first images of a nation released from decades of tyranny and fear. The conflict continues in Iraq, and our military may still face hard fighting. Yet the statues of the dictator and all the works of his terror regime are falling away.

From the beginning and to this very hour, members of the American and coalition forces have conducted themselves with all the skill and honor we expect of them. Our enemies have seen their valor. The people of Iraq are seeing their compassion as our military provides food, water, and medical treatment to all in need, including captured Iraqi soldiers. As Army Master Sergeant Howard Kutcher of Delaware said of his service in the Middle East, "I am not here to conquer. I am here to help."

In one city, American soldiers encountered a crowd of Iraqi citizens who thought our troops were about to storm a nearby mosque. Just then, Lieutenant Colonel Chris Hughes ordered his men to get down on one knee and point their weapons to the ground. This gesture of respect helped defuse a dan-

gerous situation and made our peaceful intentions clear.

Coalition forces have also come upon scenes that explain why fear runs so deep among the Iraqi people. In Baghdad on Tuesday, U.S. marines helped to free more than 100 children who, according to one report, had been jailed for refusing to join the dictator's Ba'ath Party youth organization. Malnourished and wearing rags, the children were overjoyed to see their parents and our liberating forces. In the words of Lieutenant Colonel Fred Padilla, commander of the 1st Battalion 5th Marines, "The children just streamed out of the gates, and their parents just started to embrace us." "Hundreds of kids," he said, "were swarming us and kissing us."

As Saddam's regime of fear is brought to an end, the people of Iraq are revealing the true hopes they have always held. It should surprise no one that Iraqis, like all people, resent oppression and welcome their own freedom. It should surprise no one that in every nation and every culture, the human heart desires the same good things, dignity, liberty, and a chance to build a better life.

As people throughout Iraq celebrate the arrival of freedom, America celebrates with them. We know that freedom is the gift of God to all mankind, and we rejoice when others can share it.

On Wednesday in central Baghdad, one of the Iraqi men who took a sledgehammer to the pedestal of the giant statue of Saddam had this to say: "I'm 49, but I never lived a single day. Only now will I start living."

Millions of Iraqis feel the same as their country is finally returned to them. The nightmare of Saddam Hussein's rule in Iraq is ending. Soon, the good and gifted people of Iraq will be free to choose their leaders who respect their rights and reflect their character. In all that is to come, they will have the good will of the entire world. And they will have the friendship of the people of the United States.

Thanks for listening.

NOTE: The address was recorded at 10:12 a.m. on April 11 in the Cabinet Room at the White House for broadcast at 10:06 a.m. on April 12. The transcript was made available by the Office

of the Press Secretary on April 11 but was embargoed for release until the broadcast. In his remarks, the President referred to former President Saddam Hussein of Iraq. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of this address.

**Statement on Congressional Action
on the Supplementary Budget
Request To Ensure Domestic Safety
During Operation Iraqi Freedom**

April 12, 2003

I am pleased that Congress moved quickly and with strong bipartisan support to pass my request for our military and to bolster our homeland defenses during Operation Iraqi Freedom. The world is witnessing the liberation of Iraq and the delivery of humanitarian aid to the Iraqi people as a new day begins in their country. This legislation includes the resources necessary to win the war and help secure enduring freedom and democracy for the Iraqi people. I look forward to working with the Congress as we make progress in the war and in providing aid to the people of Iraq.

**Remarks on Arrival From Camp
David, Maryland, and an Exchange
With Reporters**

April 13, 2003

Rescue of U.S. Prisoners of War

The President. Today is a great day for the families, comrades, loved ones of the seven missing in action who are free. I'm really pleased, for all those who have been praying for their safety, that they are safe.

We still have missing in action in Iraq; we will continue to look for them. We pray that they too will be safe and free one of these days. But it's just a good way to start off the morning, to have been notified that seven of our fellow Americans are going to be home here pretty soon, in the arms of their loved ones.

I'll answer a few questions. Scott [Scott Lindlaw, Associated Press].

Syria

Q. Mr. President, Secretary Rumsfeld said today he thinks Syria is harboring some Iraqi leadership. Could Syria face military action if they harbor these people?

The President. Well, Syria just needs to cooperate with us. We've made—I made that clear on Friday. I will, if need be, reiterate it today. The Syrian Government needs to cooperate with the United States and our coalition partners and not harbor any Ba'athists, any military officials, any people who need to be held to account for their tenure during what we are learning more and more about. It was one of the most horrendous governments ever.

Q. Could they face military action if they don't cooperate?

The President. They just need to cooperate.

Prayer

Q. You have been talking a lot about prayer, and today is Palm Sunday. What role do you think faith and prayer had in this rescue?

The President. I think it played—first of all, I know it helps sustain and comfort those who mourn, those who are worried, those who are concerned about their loved ones. You know, I went to the hospital on Friday and met some of our brave troops and their families. And a lot of them told me that they had been sustained by prayer, been comforted by the Almighty during what had to have been incredibly difficult times for them—to get the phone call that a loved one had been wounded or hurt and then not knowing whether the person would live and then being able to be reunited with them here in Washington.

They told me that they felt like prayers had been answered. Prayer is powerful. One of the great things about this country is a lot of people pray, and I know a lot of people are praying for the families of those who grieve and the families of those who wonder whether or not their loved ones will ever return.

Conditions in Iraq

Q. Mr. President, some of our colleagues in Iraq are saying while the Iraqis are grateful that the coalition forces freed them from

Saddam Hussein, they're frustrated and even scared about the chaos, the looting going on.

The President. Yes. You know, it's amazing, the statue comes down on Wednesday and the headlines start to read: Oh, there's disorder. Well, no kidding. It is a situation that is chaotic because Saddam Hussein created the conditions for chaos. He created conditions of fear and hatred, and it's going to take a while to stabilize the country.

But just like the military campaign was second-guessed—I'm sure the plan is being second—but we will be successful. And there will be——

Q. [Inaudible].

The President. Let me finish, please. There will be more stability. There will be more medicine. There will be more food delivered over time, and it's happening as I speak.

Have you got a follow-up question?

President's Message to the Iraqi People

Q. I just want to ask what your message is to the Iraqi people who are wondering about——

The President. You're free, and freedom is beautiful. And you know, it'll take time to restore chaos and order—order out of chaos. But we will.

Yes, John [John Cochran, ABC News].

North Korea

Q. Sir, given the success of American military forces, is this a message that people like Syrians and the North Koreans should take to heart? Do you think the North Koreans are taking it to heart?

The President. Well, John, I think that people have got to know that we are serious about stopping the spread of weapons of mass destruction and that each situation requires a different response. But we are making good progress in North Korea. We have made it clear that we think that the best way to deal with their proliferation is through a multinational forum. It looks like that might be coming to fruition. That's very good news for the people in the Far East who are concerned about North Korea and their willingness to develop nuclear weapons. We're making progress on all fronts.

Syria

Q. Do you think there are weapons of mass destruction in Syria?

The President. I think that we believe there are chemical weapons in Syria, for example. And we will—each situation will require a different response, and of course, we're—first things first. We're here in Iraq now. And the second thing about Syria is, is that we expect cooperation, and I'm hopeful we'll receive cooperation.

All right. Have a beautiful day.

Victory Declaration

Q. When do you think you'll declare a victory? And will you be the one to declare victory if it comes?

The President. That's going to be—yes, Friday, I'm—did you watch my press conference on Friday?

Q. I did.

The President. Do I need to say it again, then? Surely you watched it. [Laughter]

Q. Tommy Franks is going to call the shots? [Laughter]

The President. Tommy—no, listen, we set clear objectives here in Washington. We gave our military what they needed to achieve the objectives. And when those objectives are met, we will hear from our commanders on the ground that they have been met. And that's when the so-called “victory declaration” will come forth.

Q. Mr. President, will you go on national television when the time is right?

The President. I'm on national television right this second. And it's an honor to be here on national television. And it's a great day to be on national television—seven Americans are alive. Seven people who were missing are now alive. And I am so pleased for their families and loved ones. It is—Patsy [Patricia Wilson, Reuters], have you got anything?

Syria/North Korea

Q. Yes, sir. Now that there's a vacancy on the axis of evil, is Syria a good candidate?

The President. We will deal with each situation as it arises. We're making progress on the Korean Peninsula. Everybody knows our position, which is that we expect there to be a nuclear-weapons-free Peninsula. The good

news is it's a position shared by the Chinese; it's a position shared by the South Koreans; and it's a position shared by the Japanese. So we've got common interests, and working together, I am very hopeful we'll be able to achieve those interests diplomatically.

Have a great day. Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 12:53 p.m. on the South Lawn at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to former President Saddam Hussein of Iraq; and Gen. Tommy R. Franks, USA, combatant commander, U.S. Central Command. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of these remarks.

Letter to the Speaker of the House of Representatives Transmitting a Supplementary Budget Request for the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission

April 11, 2003

Dear Mr. Speaker:

I ask the Congress to consider the enclosed request for the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC). This request would provide an additional \$18.3 million to the EEOC in FY 2003. It is needed for the EEOC to avoid furloughing its entire workforce for as many as 19 days in FY 2003, which would significantly disrupt its ability to conduct its enforcement responsibilities.

The details of this request are set forth in the enclosed letter from the Director of the Office of Management and Budget. I concur with his comments and observations.

Sincerely,

George W. Bush

NOTE: This letter was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on April 14.

Videotape Remarks to America's Military and Their Families

April 14, 2003

My fellow citizens:

When freedom needs defending, America turns to our military. I want to thank those who wear our uniform. Thank you for your sacrifice. And as our men and women in uni-

form do their job, they count on their families. This time of war has been a time of hardship for many military families. Some of you have been separated from your loved ones by long deployments. You're dealing with added burdens at home while praying for your husband or wife, son or daughter, father or mother far from home. All of America is grateful for your sacrifice.

Over the last few weeks, the world has witnessed what you already know—that our Armed Forces act with great skill and great courage and great humanity. Images of the Iraqi people welcoming our troops in cities across that country are a testament to the character of our men and women in uniform.

Our forces have been given a clear mission, to end a regime that threatened its neighbors and the world with weapons of mass destruction and to free a people that had suffered far too long. American and coalition forces are treating innocent civilians with kindness, delivering urgently needed food and medicine, and acting in the highest traditions of the United States military. Our whole Nation is proud of the honorable conduct of our military, and I am proud to be your Commander in Chief.

All who wear this Nation's uniform have chosen to serve in America's defense and in freedom's cause. You and your families deserve the gratitude of the Nation and the full support of our Government. We will give you the tools and training you need to win our Nation's battles. And we will keep our commitment to improving the quality of life for our military families.

This Nation has made another pledge: We will never forget the men and women who have fallen in service to America. We owe them our freedom. And we pray that their loved ones will receive God's comfort and God's grace.

All of you know that great military successes comes from years of hard work, training, and commitment. You stand tall in times of conflict, and you stand ready in times of peace. For your daily effort, for your professionalism, and for your patriotism, I thank you on behalf of the people of the United States.

May God bless our country and all who defend her.

NOTE: The President's remarks were videotaped at approximately 10:20 a.m. on April 11 in the Map Room at the White House for later broadcast. The videotape was played in the Press Secretary's press gaggle on April 14, and copies of the video were made available but were not issued as a White House Press Release. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of these remarks.

Joint Proclamation by the Heads of Government of Six Countries Regarding the Completion of the Human Genome Sequence

April 14, 2003

We, the Heads of Government of the United States of America, the United Kingdom, Japan, France, Germany, and China, are proud to announce that scientists from our six countries have completed the essential sequence of three billion base pairs of DNA of the human genome, the molecular instruction book of human life.

Remarkable advances in genetic science and technology have been made in the five decades since the landmark discovery of the double-helix structure of DNA in April 1953. Now, in the very month and year of the 50th anniversary of that important discovery by Watson and Crick, the International Human Genome Sequencing Consortium has completed decoding all the chapters of the instruction book of human life. This information is now freely available to the world without constraints via public databases on the World Wide Web.

This genetic sequence provides us with the fundamental platform for understanding ourselves, from which revolutionary progress will be made in biomedical sciences and in the health and welfare of humankind. Thus, we take today an important step toward establishing a healthier future for all the peoples of the globe, for whom the human genome serves as a common inheritance.

We congratulate all the people who participated in this project on their creativity and dedication. Their outstanding work will be noted in the history of science and technology, and as well in the history of humankind, as a landmark achievement.

We encourage the world to celebrate the scientific achievement of completing the Human Genome Project, and we exhort the scientific and medical communities to rededicate themselves to the utilization of these new discoveries to reduce human suffering.

His Excellency
Jacques Chirac,
President of the French Republic.

The Honorable
George Bush,
President of the United States of America.

The Right Honorable
Tony Blair, M.P.,
Prime Minister of the United Kingdom.

His Excellency
Gerhard Schroeder,
Chancellor of the Federal Republic of Germany.

His Excellency
Junichiro Koizumi,
Prime Minister of Japan.

His Excellency
WEN Jiabao,
Premier of the State Council of the People's Republic of China.

NOTE: An original was not available for verification of the content of this joint proclamation.

Letter to Congressional Leaders Transmitting a Report on Iraq

April 14, 2003

Dear Mr. Speaker: (Dear Mr. President:)

Consistent with the Authorization for Use of Military Force Against Iraq Resolution of 2002 (Public Law 107-243), the Authorization for the Use of Force Against Iraq Resolution (Public Law 102-1), and in order to keep the Congress fully informed, I am providing a report prepared by my Administration. This report includes matters relating to

planning for post-liberation Iraq under section 7 of the Iraq Liberation Act of 1998 (Public Law 105–338).

Sincerely,

George W. Bush

NOTE: Identical letters were sent to J. Dennis Hastert, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and Richard B. Cheney, President of the Senate.

Remarks Following Discussions With Business Leaders

April 15, 2003

Christine, thanks for the kind words. Thank you for being a entrepreneur who was encouraging to your fellow workers to serve their country. You represent a lot of bosses across this country who encouraged the reservist or the guard, who made sure there was a job available when they came home and, at the same time, supported their family. And I want to thank you very much for that.

I want to welcome you all to the Rose Garden. It is a beautiful day. It's a beautiful day for our country too. We've got troops still fighting in Iraq, and our Nation takes great pride in the men and women who wear our country's uniform and who sacrifice for security and peace. The world has seen their skill and their courage and their humanity. They bring security to our country and, at the same time, bring freedom to the Iraqi people.

I appreciate the chance to meet with small-business leaders from around our country to discuss the challenges facing our economy. The small-business folks in America, the entrepreneurs, represent one of the great strengths of this country, the spirit of free enterprise, the willingness to take risk, the hard work required to move this economy forward.

Small-business owners and employees understand that this economy has a great deal of unmet potential. The American people have all the talent to meet that potential, and that's why I'm so optimistic about the future for our economy.

The Nation needs quick action by our Congress on a progrowth economic package. We need tax relief totaling at least \$550 billion to make sure our economy grows. And

American workers and American businesses need every bit of that relief now so that people who want to find a job can find one, so that people looking for work are able to put food on the table for their families.

I want to thank Christine for coming. I appreciate the fact that she is the CEO of her own business. We just had a roundtable discussion in the Roosevelt Room, and one of the things I love—told the folks there I loved about America was the fact that somebody can own their own business, that ours is an ownership society. I think that's one of the things that makes America so unique, is the entrepreneurial spirit and the drive by people from all walks of life to start their own business, succeed with their own business. And at the same time, it's that drive that makes it likely somebody is going to find work.

I appreciate Karla Aaron, who's with us as well, Hialeah Metal Spinning from South Florida. And I want to thank Tim Barrett, who is the owner of Wood World. Tim said he's got—he's about as small a business unit as you can get. He's got four employees. I said, "Well, it's four times bigger than the smallest." [Laughter] And I appreciate Frank Fillmore as the president of The Fillmore Group. Thank you all for standing up here as well.

Steve Anderson was with us today, who is the head of the National Restaurant Association. His association represents all kinds of entrepreneurs. The restaurant industry is a great place for people to get their start in achieving the American Dream.

Sal Gomez was here representing the Denver Hispanic Chamber of Commerce. The most interesting statistics about the entrepreneurial spirit is the number of Hispanic small businesses that are flourishing in our country. It's one of the great tributes to America and our open society.

I appreciate so very much Tom Donohue, who is the head of the U.S. Chamber, for joining us today. Jerry Jasinowski is the head of the National Association of Manufacturers, is with us. Karen Kerrigan is the Small Business Survival Committee—that's a pretty good name. [Laughter] Tom Musser is the National Federation of Independent Businesses, NFIB. And Terry Neese is Women

Impacting Public Policy, joined us at our discussion in the Roosevelt Room; Bill Parsley of Carswell Distributing Company; Dirk Van Dongen, who is my good buddy, who represents the National Association of Wholesaler-Distributors; and Melanie Sabelhaus, who represents the Small Business Administration. We had a great discussion. I want to thank you all for joining us there, and I appreciate everybody else coming today as well.

On the first day of the new Congress more than 3 months ago, I spoke to the business leaders in Chicago, Illinois. I described two great and immediate tasks facing our country: first, to meet the dangers to America wherever they gather; and secondly, to achieve a vigorous and growing economy. Those remain the highest priorities of my administration. And there's no doubt we're going to meet those priorities.

This Government is acting to protect the American people from the threats of a new era. In Iraq, the regime of Saddam Hussein is no more. A month ago—one month ago—that country was a prison to its people, a haven for terrorists, an arsenal of weapons that endangered the world. Today, the world is safer. The terrorists have lost an ally. The Iraqi people are regaining control of their own destiny. These are good days in the history of freedom.

Our victory in Iraq is certain, but it is not complete. Centralized power of the dictator has ended. Yet, in parts of Iraq, desperate and dangerous elements remain. Forces of our coalition will engage these enemies until they surrender or until they're destroyed. We have waged this war with determination and with clarity of purpose, and we will see it through until the job is done.

As we press on to liberate every corner of Iraq, we are beginning the difficult work of helping Iraqis to build a free and stable country. The immediate tasks involve establishing order as well as delivering food and water and medicines. We'll help Iraqis to restore electrical power and other basic services. We'll help destroy the former regime's weapons of mass destruction. We'll help the Iraqi people to establish a just and representative government which respects human rights and adheres to the rule of law. These

tasks will take effort, and these tasks will take time. But I have faith in the Iraqi people, and I believe that a free Iraq can be an example of reform and progress to all the Middle East.

Our victory in Iraq will be a crucial advance in the war against terror. Yet, the war on terror continues. Our Nation is still threatened by determined and resourceful enemies. The proliferation of weapons of mass destruction remains a danger to the civilized world. Yet from the very day our country was attacked, we have sent a clear message to all who would threaten us and our friends and our allies: The United States of America and our coalition will defend ourselves. When we make a pledge, we mean it. We keep our word, and what we begin, we will finish.

Another great priority of the Government is to encourage prosperity and the creation of jobs for all who seek them. Here in Washington, we're now determining the size and the shape of a package to promote growth in jobs. It's not "if" we have a package; it's how big will the package be? The "if" is over with. In this debate, the goal is not to set arbitrary numbers for that package. The goal is to determine what our economy needs, what small businesses need, what workers need, and then to take actions necessary to meet those needs. The proposals I announced 3 months ago were designed to address specific weaknesses slowing down our economy and keeping companies from hiring new workers. Those weaknesses remain today.

All of you know that economic and job growth will come when consumers buy more goods and services from businesses such as your own. And the best and fairest way to make sure Americans can do that is to grant them immediate tax relief so they have more of their own money to spend or save.

In 2001, the Congress passed broad tax reductions in income taxes and promised much of this tax relief for future years. With the economy as it is, the American people need that relief right away. The tax cuts are good enough for the American taxpayers 3 or 5 or 7 years from now; they are even better today.

Instead of lowering taxes little by little, the Congress should do it all at once and give our economy the boost it needs. Instead of gradually reducing the marriage penalty, we should do it now. Instead of slowly raising the child credit from \$600 to \$1,000, we should do it now. And we should send the extra \$400 per child to American families this year, 2003.

All together, these tax reductions will help 92 million Americans. And a significant part of the benefit to our economy will come within the first 2 years of the plan. A family of four with an income of \$40,000 would receive a 96-percent reduction in Federal income taxes. Instead of paying \$1,178 per year, the family would pay \$45 a year. That means extra money in the family budget, year after year. That money can cover a lot of bills. That money can help families with purchases they have been delaying. That money will be in circulation, which will be good for our economy.

And this plan will help our small-business sector. The benefits of the growth plan will come from increased consumer spending and, as importantly, from lower income-tax rates on the small businesses themselves. It is important for our fellow citizens to understand that most small businesses pay their business taxes at the individual rates. Most small businesses are sole proprietorships or limited partnerships or Subchapter S's.

And therefore, when you reduce individual tax rates, you benefit small-business formation. As a matter of fact, under this plan, some 23 million small-business owners will see their taxes cut, which leaves more money for investment, more money for growth, more money for job creation. A growing economy also needs small-business investment, and our Tax Code should encourage investment. Today, a small business can deduct a maximum of \$25,000 in the year in which they buy equipment. We need to triple the amount that can be deducted in the year in which they buy equipment.

So I proposed to Congress that they ought to limit—the limit ought to be increased to \$75,000, and that limit ought to be indexed to inflation. By doing so, we promote greater investment in machinery, and when a small business buys a machine, it enhances their

company's productivity. As well, it means the machinery manufacturer is likely to have more work available. More investment equals jobs, and what we're interested in in this administration is helping people who look for work find a job.

We can also promote economic growth and job creation by removing the double tax on dividends. Taxing corporate income once is fair. It is not fair for the Federal Government to tax the same money twice. The burden of double taxation falls on the millions of individuals who receive dividends. It falls especially hard on seniors, who receive half of all dividend income.

The removal of double taxation would put more money into the hands of investors; it would encourage more investment in American businesses. Economists say that this plan will help our stock markets. And since half of American families own stock, the reform will help them save and help our economy grow.

Now, these measures were presented to the Congress in the first week of this year. The progrowth package was urgent in January. It's even more urgent today. It is important for you all to understand and for our fellow Americans to understand, the tax relief I have proposed and will push for until enacted will create 1.4 million new jobs by the end of 2004.

In 2 years' time, this Nation has experienced war, a recession, and a national emergency, which has caused our Government to run a deficit. The best way to reduce the deficit is with more growth in our economy, which means more revenues to our Treasury and less spending in Washington, DC.

I am pleased that both the House and the Senate have passed budget resolutions that show real spending restraint. And now the Congress must focus on a robust and effective growth package. We need at least \$550 billion in that package because the more tax relief that goes to the American people, the more jobs we will create in this economy.

The last few months have been a time of challenge for America. Our resolve has been tested. Yet, we have the great resources of national strength and national character to overcome every challenge we face. Our confidence and our optimism have never

wavered. We are defending the peace of the world. We're bringing freedom to corners of the world that haven't seen freedom in years. We're also building the prosperity of our country.

This is a unique moment in our history, and the American people are rising to meet it.

I want to thank each of you for your hard work. I want to thank each of you for the faith you have shown in this country's future. May God bless you, and may God continue to bless America. Thank you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:16 a.m. in the Rose Garden at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Christine J. Bierman, founder and chief executive officer, Colt Safety, Fire & Rescue; Karla Aaron, owner, Hialeah Metal Spinning, Inc.; Tim Barrett, owner, Wood World; Frank C. Fillmore, Jr., founder and president, The Fillmore Group; Steven C. Anderson, president and chief executive officer, National Restaurant Association; Salvador Gomez, chairman of the board and chief executive officer, Denver Hispanic Chamber of Commerce; Thomas J. Donohue, president and chief executive officer, U.S. Chamber of Commerce; Jerry Jasinowski, president, National Association of Manufacturers; Karen Kerrigan, chairman, Small Business Survival Committee; Tom Musser, chairman of the board, National Federation of Independent Business; Terry Neese, president and co-founder, Women Impacting Public Policy; William Parsley, president, Carswell Distributing Co.; Dirk Van Dongen, president, National Association of Wholesaler-Distributors; and former President Saddam Hussein of Iraq. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of these remarks.

Proclamation 7664—National Fair Housing Month, 2003

April 15, 2003

*By the President of the United States
of America*

A Proclamation

The Fair Housing Act was signed on April 11, 1968, just one week after the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. This landmark bill, Title VIII of the Civil Rights Act of 1968, resulted from the hard work and leadership of Dr. King and others in the civil rights movement and was an important step

toward confronting discrimination against minorities in housing. As we celebrate the 35th anniversary of this historic legislation, we reaffirm our commitment to ensuring that all Americans have equal access to housing.

The Fair Housing Act of 1968 has helped open doors of opportunity for countless families. Since its passage, America has made significant progress in achieving equal housing access for all individuals.

Despite this progress, more work remains in our struggle to achieve equality and racial justice. Prejudice and discriminatory practices in housing still exist in America. A recent lending study showed that minorities continue to receive less information, less assistance, and less favorable terms and conditions than non-minorities while applying for home loans. These practices are wrong. As a Nation, and as individuals, we must be vigilant in responding to discrimination wherever we find it and ensuring that minority families have access to housing. With my minority homeownership initiative and its partnership with the private sector, I have set a goal to increase the number of minority homeowners by 5.5 million by 2010.

All Americans should know their housing rights, and the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) is working to increase public awareness of fair housing laws, including those combating discrimination in mortgage lending. The 2004 budget request for HUD includes \$50 million for fair housing—a 9 percent increase over 2003 funding—with a substantial portion specifically allocated for increased education and outreach efforts. The Department is also collaborating with the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation on a financial education program in minority neighborhoods. In addition, the HUD, Education, and the Treasury Departments are advancing initiatives to educate families about homeownership through counseling programs and financial literacy efforts.

We are also vigilantly enforcing fair housing laws, showing no tolerance for those who discriminate. The Office of Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity at HUD is working with private industry and fair housing and community advocates to promote voluntary compliance and to ensure that consumers are treated in a lawful, respectful manner. When

warranted, the Department of Justice takes legal action to protect our citizens from discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, or national origin.

Finally, we are working to increase the supply of accessible housing for citizens with disabilities. HUD continues to aggressively enforce the law on behalf of people with disabilities, and the Department is working cooperatively with builders, architects, and others to provide technical assistance to help construct more handicapped-accessible housing.

Fair Housing Month provides an opportunity to place special emphasis on our goal to increase homeownership throughout our country. Together, we can advance toward a future where all our citizens have access to a key element of the American Dream—homeownership.

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim April 2003 as National Fair Housing Month. I call upon the people of the United States to learn more about their rights and responsibilities under the Fair Housing Act and the roles they can individually and collectively play to combat housing discrimination.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this fifteenth day of April, in the year of our Lord two thousand three, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-seventh.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., April 17, 2003]

NOTE: This proclamation was published in the *Federal Register* on April 18.

Letter to the Speaker of the House of Representatives Requesting Disaster Relief Funds

April 15, 2003

Dear Mr. Speaker:

In accordance with provisions of Public Law 107–73, the Departments of Veterans

Affairs and Housing and Urban Development, and Independent Agencies Appropriations Act, 2002, I hereby request and make available \$250 million for the disaster relief program of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS).

These funds would allow DHS to continue providing assistance for disasters in several States, including the recovery of the *Columbia* space shuttle and the damaging winter storms on the East Coast. These funds also would be available for ongoing response to prior disasters and to ensure that DHS has resources on hand to provide timely response to future disasters.

I designate these funds made available today as an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985, as amended.

The details of this action are set forth in the attached letter from the Director of the Office of Management and Budget. I concur with his comments and observations.

Sincerely,

George W. Bush

Letter to Congressional Leaders Transmitting a Report on the National Emergency With Respect to Significant Narcotics Traffickers Centered in Colombia

April 15, 2003

Dear Mr. Speaker: (Dear Mr. President:)

As required by section 401(c) of the National Emergencies Act, 50 U.S.C. 1641(c), and 204(c) of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act, 50 U.S.C. 1703(c), I transmit herewith a 6-month periodic report prepared by my Administration on the national emergency with respect to significant narcotics traffickers centered in Colombia declared in Executive Order 12978 of October 21, 1995.

Sincerely,

George W. Bush

NOTE: Identical letters were sent to J. Dennis Hastert, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and Richard B. Cheney, President of the Senate.

This letter was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on April 16.

Remarks to Employees at the Boeing F-18 Production Facility in St. Louis, Missouri

April 16, 2003

Thank you all very much. Be seated, please. So I'm on my way to Crawford—[laughter]—part of the real world, I want you to know—and I decided to stop here in St. Louis, Missouri, to say thanks to some of the finest workers we have in America. And it's a perfect time to do so. The successes of our military begin right here on the factory floors. The quality of the workmanship that goes into the aircrafts that you build here is one of the main reasons why we were successful in making the world a more peaceful place. Our Nation thanks you for your efforts and your work.

Seeing all the good workers here reminds me of one of the big tasks we have in America, and that is to make sure anybody who's looking for a job can find one. Too many of our fellow Americans are looking for work, and that bothers me. So I sent some suggestions up to the United States Congress about how to stimulate job growth, and it starts with letting you keep more of your own money.

I have sent to the Congress a jobs-and-growth package that will reduce the burden on our taxpayers, that will give you more of your money in your pockets so you get to decide how to save or invest and spend. In order for all Americans who are looking for work to find work, the Congress must pass this jobs package as soon as they come back from their recess.

And the other big task for this Nation is to overcome any threats to our country, wherever they gather. Each of you has had a part of preparing this Nation to meet the dangers of our time. Today, half a world away, America is leading this great coalition of free nations to end a brutal regime and to remove a threat to our society. We've applied the new powers of technology—like the F-18s—to strike an enemy force with speed and incredible precision. Our work is not done. The difficulties have not passed, but

the regime of Saddam Hussein has passed into history. Thanks to the courage and the might of our military, the American people are more secure. Thanks to the courage and might of our military, the Iraqi people are now free.

I want to thank management and worker alike for inviting me here today. It's truly an honor to be here. I want to thank Phil Condit and Jim Albaugh and Rick Smith for the invitation. It gives me a chance to come and say firsthand how much we all appreciate what you do on behalf of the security of this country.

I appreciate Senator Bond and Senator Talent for their leadership. It's good to work with these two men to make sure this Nation remains strong. I appreciate Matt Blunt, representing the State government, for being here.

Today I had the honor of meeting John Sant. He was so anxious to see me at the foot of the stairs of Air Force One, he was standing in the rain. And I'm grateful for that. But I'm grateful to share his story with you. Here's a man who decides to take time out of his busy life to volunteer to help children become more literate, volunteers to help the AmeriCorps program to make sure that the public education system of St. Louis, Missouri, fulfills its promise that no child should be left behind in any community in America. It is appropriate that we talk about the compassion of our fellow Americans at the same time as we talk about the might of our great country.

I asked John to come and to stand because one of my calls to our fellow Americans is to love your neighbor just like you'd like to be loved yourself. When you see somebody who hurts, put your arm around them and tell them you love them and make sure that—[applause].

And also standing out there at the stairs was Adrian Fakes, private first class, United States Marine Corps, St. Louis native, wounded in An Nasiriyah, soon to recover, anxious to get back to his unit. He represents the finest of the fine—those of our country who wear the uniform. Thank you for coming, Adrian.

You and I and all the world are witnessing historic days in the cause of freedom. One

month ago—just one month ago—the forces of our coalition stood at the borders of Iraq with orders to advance hundreds of miles through hostile territory against a ruthless enemy. Today, organized military resistance has virtually ended; the major cities of Iraq have been liberated.

Two weeks ago, the Iraqi regime operated a gulag for dissidents and, incredibly enough, a prison for young children. Now the gates to that prison have been thrown wide open, and we are putting the dictators, political prisons, and torture chambers out of business.

One week ago, Baghdad was filled with statues and giant pictures of the dictator. They're kind of hard to find today. [*Laughter*] The fall of that statue in Baghdad marked the end of a nightmare for the Iraqi people, and it marked the start of a new day of freedom.

Four days ago, seven American soldiers, six men and one woman, were held captive by forces still loyal to the fallen regime. Today, those brave Americans are with their fellow comrades and are headed home to their loved ones.

American and coalition forces still face serious risks in Iraq. Scattered enemy is still capable of doing harm to our forces and to the innocent. But we'll stay focused. We will finish what we've begun. We will press on until our mission is finished and victory is complete.

On September the 11th, 2001, America found that we are not immune to the threats that gather for years across the oceans, threats that can arrive in sudden tragedy. Since September the 11th, we've been engaged in a global war against terror, a war being waged on many fronts. That war continues, and we are winning.

In Afghanistan, we and our allies ended the rule of the Taliban and closed down camps where terrorists plotted and trained to attack us. In Iraq, our coalition has now removed an ally of terrorists and a producer of weapons of mass destruction. In other nations, we're hunting and capturing members of Al Qaida, disrupting their plans before they can strike. Across the world, terrorists and tyrants are learning this, that America and our friends and our allies will act in our

own defense. Instead of drifting toward tragedy, we will protect our security, and we will promote the peace in the world.

We are fighting terror with all the tools we have at our disposal, diplomacy and law enforcement, intelligence and homeland security. As a last resort, we have turned to our military. And the skill and the heroism of American Armed Forces are making this country proud.

From Kabul to Baghdad, American forces and our fine allies have conducted some of the most successful military campaigns in history. By a combination of creative strategies and advanced technologies, we are redefining war on our terms. Even before the fighting began in Iraq, Special Operations forces were inside the country, moving in to protect key infrastructure, protect the oilfields owned by the Iraqi people, to secure vital bridges. Overwhelmingly yet carefully targeted airstrikes left entire enemy divisions without armor and without organization. Precision-guided weapons fatally disrupted the regime's system of command and control.

Every armed conflict brings sacrifice and grief. That's why the use of our military is our last option. Yet, more than ever before, the precision of our technology is protecting the lives of our soldiers and the lives of innocent civilians. The overwhelming majority of the munitions dropped in the Iraqi campaign were precision-guided. In this new era of warfare, we can target a regime, not a nation. Our aim is to track and strike the guilty. Terrorists and tyrants have now been put on notice; they can no longer feel safe hiding behind innocent lives.

Our military is strong and our military is ready, and we intend to keep it that way. Our Armed Forces must have every resource they need to carry out and complete the missions we give them. This morning at the White House, I signed a \$79 billion wartime supplemental to cover the needs directly arising from Operation Iraqi Freedom and the reconstruction of Iraq. People who serve in the military are giving their best to America, and I want to thank the Members of Congress for acting quickly to give our men and women in arms the support they need.

For the sake of the security of this country and for the sake of peace in this world, the

United States must maintain every advantage in weaponry and technology and intelligence. Our edge in warfare comes, in part, because of the American spirit of enterprise, great companies such as Boeing, great workers such as yourselves.

In any conflict, however, this Nation's greatest single asset is the kind of men and women who put on the uniform of the United States. The methods of war have changed, but the need for courage has not. And we've seen, once again, the courage of the men and women who wear the uniform of the United States of America. These are young Americans who engaged in furious battles, then carried wounded enemies to medical treatment. These are young Americans willing to accept any danger to rescue one of their own. These are the kind of people who, when they are wounded themselves, ask to rejoin their comrades in battle. Some of our soldiers and marines will never be returning to their families, and these are the men and women who our Nation will honor forever.

The character of our military reflects the character of our country. America uses its might in the service of principle. As we defend our security, we value the lives and the liberty of the Iraqi people. Having rid Iraq of an oppressive regime, we are committed to helping Iraq build a future of freedom and dignity and peace.

By swift and effective military action, we avoided the massive flow of refugees that many had expected. By delivering food and water and medicine to the Iraqi people, even as coalition units engaged the enemy, we have helped to avert a humanitarian crisis. Emergency supplies are now moving freely to Iraq from many countries. Now that Iraq is liberated, the United Nations should lift economic sanctions on that country.

We're also addressing Iraq's urgent medical problems, problems left by a regime that built palaces in a country that needed hospitals. Right now, hundreds of Iraqis are being treated at U.S. and British military facilities. Governments from Europe and the Middle East are moving field hospitals to Iraq. Coalition members and the United Nations and other international organizations are sending much-needed medical supplies.

The Red Cross is working to keep water and electricity flowing to hospitals. And very soon our coalition will be making direct emergency payments to Iraqi doctors and nurses who will be providing desperately needed care to their fellow citizens. With all the hardships of this transition, the lives of the Iraqi people will be better than anything they have known for generations.

The journey from a totalitarian, brutal dictatorship to a free society is not easy. It will take time to build the institutions of democracy and the habits of freedom. Today, civil order is being restored in communities throughout Iraq, and Iraqis themselves are helping in the effort. Iraqis are leading coalition forces to caches of weapons and volunteering for citizen patrols to provide security. In Basra, British forces and Iraqis have formed joint patrols to maintain order. Just days after the fall of the dictator, just days after the people of Iraq realized they were free from the clutches of his terror, the Iraqi people are reclaiming their own streets, their own country, and their own future.

Yesterday an historic gathering occurred in the city of An Nasiriyah, where Iraqis met openly and freely to discuss the future of the country. They even had some protesters outside the meeting, a sure sign of freedom. [Laughter] Many more of these meetings will take place in the weeks and months to come. In An Nasiriyah, the Iraqi people have made a good start. And out of that meeting came this declaration: Iraq must be democratic. And the nations of our coalition share that commitment. We also share this commitment: We will not impose any form of government on Iraq. We will help Iraq to build a government of, by, and for the Iraqi people.

In Iraq, the world is witnessing something dramatic and something important. We're seeing the deep and universal desire of men and women to live in freedom. As Americans, this shouldn't surprise us. We believe that no force, no threat, can make human beings love tyranny. We believe that the appeal of liberty will, in time, overcome any coercive power on Earth. We believe that people across the Middle East and across the world are weary of poverty, weary of oppression, and yearn to be free. And all who know that

hope, all who will work and sacrifice for freedom, have a friend in the United States of America.

Our country and our good allies are united by a great goal: We're working to create the conditions for peace. We're confronting the threats to peace from terrorism and weapons of mass destruction. And we're aiding the advance of peace by seeking the advance of freedom. Free societies do not nurture bitterness or the ideologies of terror and murder. Free societies are founded on the belief that every life has equal value. Free societies turn the creative gifts of men and women toward progress and the betterment of their own lives. American interests and American founding beliefs lead in the same direction: We stand for human liberty.

This past month has been a time of testing and uncertainty for our country. The American people have responded with resolve and with optimism. Whatever challenges may come, we can be confident. Our Nation is strong; our purpose is firm; and our cause is just.

God bless you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 12:20 p.m. in the F/A-18 E/F aircraft assembly facility at Boeing Integrated Defense Systems. In his remarks, he referred to former President Saddam Hussein of Iraq; Philip M. Condit, chairman and chief executive officer, and James F. Albaugh, executive vice president, The Boeing Company; Rick Smith, president, International Association of Machinist and Aerospace Workers, District 837; and Missouri Secretary of State Matt Blunt. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of these remarks.

Memorandum on Waiver and Certification of Statutory Provisions Regarding the Palestine Liberation Organization

April 16, 2003

Presidential Determination No. 2003-20

Memorandum for the Secretary of State

Subject: Waiver and Certification of Statutory Provisions Regarding the Palestine Liberation Organization

Pursuant to the authority vested in me under section 534(d) of the Foreign Operations, Export Financing, and Related Programs Appropriations Act, 2003, Public Law 108-7, I hereby determine and certify that it is important to the national security interests of the United States to waive the provisions of section 1003 of the Anti-Terrorism Act of 1987, Public Law 100-204.

This waiver shall be effective for a period of 6 months from the date hereof. You are hereby authorized and directed to transmit this determination to the Congress and to publish it in the *Federal Register*.

George W. Bush

Message on the Observance of Passover, 5763

April 17, 2003

I send greetings to those who are observing Passover this week, beginning at sundown on April 16.

For Jewish families across the United States and around the world, Passover is a time of joy and renewal. This holiday celebrates the deliverance of the Jewish people from oppression and marks their birth as a nation. In remembering the Israelites' liberation from enslavement and their Exodus from Egypt, Passover reminds individuals of God's faithfulness and of the triumph of good over evil. It is also a time for families and

friends to follow in the footsteps of their forefathers and to gather at the Seder table to eat special foods, offer prayers, and sing songs that celebrate their rich heritage, the power of faith, and the eternal blessings of liberty.

The story of the Exodus, as found in the Scriptures, is timeless and universal. More than 3,000 years ago, the children of Abraham learned of our Creator's love and mercy as they reaffirmed man's natural desire for liberty. Every year since then, Jews remember the miracles that led their ancestors out of bondage and to the Promised Land.

As the international community works to face great challenges and embrace important opportunities, the United States remains committed to peace, justice, and opportunity. During this time of great consequence, we resolve to bring about a rebirth of freedom and promise in troubled regions around the world.

Laura joins me in sending our best wishes for a Happy Passover. We also hope the holy season will bring a renewal of faith, comfort, and hope for all.

George W. Bush

NOTE: An original was not available for verification of the content of this message.

Message on the Observance of Easter 2003

April 17, 2003

I send greetings to those observing Easter. Easter is the most important event of the Christian faith, when people around the world join together with family and friends to celebrate the Resurrection of Jesus Christ, the Son of God and the hope of life to come.

For Christians, the life and death of Jesus are the ultimate expressions of love, and the supreme demonstrations of God's mercy, faithfulness, and redemption. Since Christ's miraculous Resurrection on Easter, more than 2,000 years ago, Christians have expressed joy and gratitude for this wondrous sacrifice and for God's promise of freedom for the oppressed, healing for the brokenhearted, and salvation.

Though this year's observance comes at a time when our world faces many challenges, the message of Easter remains unchanged—though sorrow may last through the night, joy comes in the morning. This holiday comforts us, as we remember that suffering will pass and goodness will prevail.

This Easter season, join me in praying for peace, wisdom, and resolve. During this holy time, may Christ's example of love and sacrifice compel us towards justice and compassion, and renew us with an assurance of hope and everlasting joy.

Laura joins me in sending our best wishes for a Happy Easter.

George W. Bush

NOTE: An original was not available for verification of the content of this message.

Memorandum on Authority To Hold Harmless and Indemnify in Certain Circumstances Under One Contract

April 17, 2003

Memorandum for the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development

Subject: Authority to Hold Harmless and Indemnify in Certain Circumstances Under One Contract

1. You are authorized for the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) to exercise authority under Public Law 85-804, as amended (50 U.S.C. 1431 *et seq.*), to the same extent and subject to the same conditions and limitations as the head of a department or agency listed in section 21 of Executive Order 10789 of November 14, 1958, as amended, with respect to one contract identified in subparagraph (a) of this memorandum and solely for the purpose identified in subparagraph (b).

- (a) The contract is for repair and reconstruction in Iraq and is awarded on or before September 30, 2003.
- (b) The purpose is to hold harmless and indemnify with respect to claims, losses, or damage arising out of or resulting from exposure, in the course of performance of the contract to which subparagraph (a) refers, to:

- (i) chemical, biological, radiological, or nuclear weapons, agents, or materials;
- (ii) land or sea mines or similar explosive devices; or
- (iii) unexploded ordnance.

2. The function performed by USAID in awarding the contract to which paragraph 1 refers is a function connected with the national defense. There are currently national emergencies that have been declared by the President in accordance with applicable law. I deem that the authorization provided by paragraph 1 and actions taken pursuant to that authorization would facilitate the national defense.

3. You are authorized and directed to publish this memorandum in the *Federal Register*.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 10:33 a.m., April 18, 2003]

NOTE: This memorandum was published in the *Federal Register* on April 21.

Proclamation 7665—National Park Week, 2003

April 18, 2003

*By the President of the United States
of America*

A Proclamation

America is a land of majestic beauty, and we are blessed with immeasurable natural wealth. Americans are united in the belief that we must preserve this treasured heritage and conserve these natural resources for the benefit and enjoyment of the American people.

As a Nation, we can be proud of our diverse parklands, ranging from the rugged wilderness of snow-capped mountains, thick forests, sweeping desert sands, and remote canyons to national symbols such as the Statue of Liberty and the Lincoln Memorial. Our National Park Service has a long and important history. In 1864, the Federal Government ensured a grand natural landscape for generations to come when it designated Yosemite Valley and the Mariposa Grove of giant sequoias to be “held for public use, re-

sort, and recreation . . . inalienable for all time.” Eight years later in 1872, the Congress created the first national park in the Yellowstone region of the Territories of Montana and Wyoming. Finally, in 1916, the National Park Service was established to efficiently administer our growing number of parks, which today includes 388 national parks on more than 84 million acres of public lands. These lands continue to be cherished by all our citizens.

The full and safe enjoyment of our national parks depends on dedicated National Park Service employees and thousands of people who volunteer their time to conserve these sites. This year’s theme for National Park Week, “Celebrating Volunteers,” recognizes their valuable contributions to conserving and maintaining our natural, cultural, and historical heritage.

Across the country, my Administration is promoting volunteer service, encouraging public-private partnerships, and advocating community-based interest in our national parks. We are committed to ensuring that our land is conserved, our air is clean, our water is pure, and our parks are open and accessible to all Americans. Recently, my Administration re-launched Take Pride in America, a national partnership that engages volunteers from every corner of America to enhance our parks and other public lands. As part of the USA Freedom Corps initiative, Take Pride in America will encourage more Americans to take part in volunteer service opportunities available on public lands.

My Administration has also supported improvements in park management and is working to reduce the park maintenance backlog. My fiscal year 2004 budget includes over \$1 billion to reduce the maintenance backlog, an increase of \$180 million over last year’s request, along with \$76 million, a \$9 million increase over last year’s request, for the National Park Service Natural Resource Challenge to monitor “vital signs” of conditions in our parks. This initiative will help conserve native species and habitats, maintain our natural resources, eradicate invasive species, and provide the public with information about resources in our parks. In addition, my Administration has developed the website www.recreation.gov, which is a user-

friendly way to obtain information about recreational opportunities in the national parks and other public recreation sites.

As we observe National Park Week, I encourage all citizens to explore our national parks and to commit to the conservation and stewardship of these timeless treasures. By working together, we can ensure that these special places thrive for generations to come.

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim April 21 through April 27, 2003, as National Park Week. I call upon the people of the United States to join me in recognizing the importance of our national parks and to learn more about these areas of beauty, their historical significance, and the many ways citizens can volunteer to help preserve these precious resources.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this eighteenth day of April, in the year of our Lord two thousand three, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-seventh.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., April 22, 2003]

NOTE: This proclamation will be published in the *Federal Register* on April 23.

**Executive Order 13296—
Amendments to Executive Order
13296, Protection of Children From
Environmental Health Risks and
Safety Risks**

April 18, 2003

By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, and in order to extend the Task Force on Environmental Health Risks and Safety Risks to Children, and for other purposes, it is hereby ordered that Executive Order 13045 of April 21, 1997, as amended, is further amended as follows:

Section 1. Subsection 3–303(o) is amended by striking “Assistant to the President and”.

Sec. 2. Section 3–305 is amended by:

(a) striking “cabinet agencies and other agencies identified” and inserting in lieu thereof “executive departments, the Environmental Protection Agency, and other agencies identified”; and

(b) inserting the following new language after the second sentence: “Each report shall also detail the accomplishments of the Task Force from the date of the preceding report.”

Sec. 3. Section 3–306 is amended by:

(a) striking “6 years” and inserting in lieu thereof “8 years”; and

(b) striking the second sentence.

Sec. 4. Section 6–601, the second sentence, is amended by deleting “an annual” and inserting “a biennial” in lieu thereof.

Sec. 5. Section 6–603, the third sentence, is amended by deleting “submitted annually” and inserting “published biennially” in lieu thereof.

Sec. 6. Section 7 is amended by adding new section 7–703 as follows: “7–703. Nothing in this order shall be construed to impair or otherwise affect the functions of the Director of the Office of Management and Budget relating to budget, administrative, or legislative proposals.”

George W. Bush

The White House,
April 18, 2003.

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., April 22, 2003]

NOTE: This Executive order will be published in the *Federal Register* on April 23.

**Digest of Other
White House Announcements**

The following list includes the President’s public schedule and other items of general interest announced by the Office of the Press Secretary and not included elsewhere in this issue.

April 12

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing at Camp David, MD. Later, he had a videoconference meeting with his war council.

April 13

In the afternoon, the President returned to Washington, DC.

The White House announced that the President will postpone his state visit to Ottawa, Canada, which was scheduled for May 5.

April 14

In the morning, the President had intelligence and FBI briefings and met with the National Security Council. Later, he met with Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld.

Also in the morning, the President had separate telephone conversations with President Jose Maria Aznar of Spain, Crown Prince Abdullah of Saudi Arabia, and President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt to discuss the situation in Iraq and peace efforts in the Middle East.

The White House announced that the President and Mrs. Bush will welcome Prime Minister John Howard of Australia and his wife, Janette, to the Bush Ranch in Crawford, TX, on May 2–3.

April 15

In the morning, the President had intelligence and FBI briefings and met with the National Security Council. Later, he had separate meetings with Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld and Secretary of State Colin L. Powell.

During the day, the President had a telephone conversation with President Jacques Chirac of France to discuss the situations in Iraq and Syria, peace efforts in the Middle East, and the G–8 summit to be held June 1–3 in France.

April 16

In the morning, the President had a telephone conversation with Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi of Japan to discuss reconstruction efforts in Iraq and the situation in North Korea. Later, he had intelligence and

FBI briefings and met with the National Security Council. He then met with Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld.

Later in the morning, the President traveled to St. Louis, MO, where he toured the Boeing Integrated Defense Systems headquarters.

In the afternoon, the President traveled to the Bush Ranch in Crawford, TX.

The President announced his intention to nominate Charles D. Snelling to be a member of the Board of Directors of the Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority.

The President announced his intention to nominate Harry K. Thomas, Jr., to be Ambassador to Bangladesh.

The President announced his intention to nominate William B. Wood to be Ambassador to Colombia.

The President announced his intention to nominate Robert W. Fitts to be Ambassador to Papua New Guinea, the Solomon Islands, and Vanuatu.

The President announced his intention to nominate Tracey A. Jacobson to be Ambassador to Turkmenistan.

The President announced his intention to appoint Daniel W. Sutherland as Officer for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties at the Department of Homeland Security.

The President announced his intention to nominate the following individuals to be members of the Board of Trustees of the Institute of American Indian and Alaska Native Culture and Arts Development: John R. Grimes, Georgianna E. Ignace, Lisa G. Nason, and Henry Townsend.

April 17

In the morning, at the Bush Ranch, the President had a telephone conversation with President Jose Maria Aznar of Spain to discuss the situation in Iraq and peace efforts in the Middle East. Later, he had intelligence and national security briefings.

The President announced his intention to nominate Susan C. Schwab to be First Vice President of the Export-Import Bank of the United States.

The President announced his intention to appoint Hattie Daniels-Rush as a member of the Commission on Presidential Scholars.

The President announced his intention to appoint Michael Sade as a member of the Committee for Purchase From People Who Are Blind or Severely Disabled.

The President announced his intention to appoint the following individuals as members of the Advisory Committee for Trade Policy and Negotiations: Charles E. Kruse, Steven J. McCormick, Kevin B. Rollins, and Robert L. Wright.

The President announced his intention to appoint Stuart F. Bruny, Kenneth S. Komoroski, and Donald S. Welsh as Commissioners of the Ohio River Valley Water Sanitation Commission.

The President announced his intention to reappoint the following individuals as members of the President's Committee on Mental Retardation: Nancy Blanchard, Mary C. Bruene, Zoraida Fonalledas, Brenda Leath, Alvaro Marin, Kim Porter-Hoppe, Michael Rogers, Windy Smith, and Gene Stallings, Jr.

April 18

In the morning, at the Bush Ranch, the President had an intelligence briefing.

The President announced his intention to appoint Rebecca O. Campoverde and James Roberts as members of the White House Commission on the National Moment of Remembrance.

Nominations Submitted to the Senate

NOTE: No nominations were submitted to the Senate during the period covered by this issue.

Checklist of White House Press Releases

The following list contains releases of the Office of the Press Secretary that are neither printed as items nor covered by entries in the Digest of Other White House Announcements.

Released April 13

Statement by the Press Secretary: Postponement of the President's Trip to Canada

Released April 14

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Statement by the Press Secretary: Visit of Prime Minister John Howard of Australia to Crawford

Released April 15

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Fact sheet: Strengthening America's Economy

Released April 16

Transcript of a press gaggle by Deputy Press Secretary Scott McClellan

Statement by the Press Secretary announcing that the President signed H.R. 1559

Released April 17

Transcript of a press gaggle by Deputy Press Secretary Claire Buchan

Statement by the Deputy Press Secretary: United Nations Sanctions Cuba for Human Rights Violations

Released April 18

Transcript of a press gaggle by Deputy Press Secretary Claire Buchan

Acts Approved by the President

Approved April 16

H.R. 1559 / Public Law 108-11
Emergency Wartime Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2003